ABOUT DICK AND TOM.

OTHERWISE' RICHARD K. MUNKIT-TRICK AND THOMAS L. MASSON.

They Are Both Splendid Fellows Person ally and Have Written Rhymes That Appeal to the Hearts and the Funny Bones of the American People.

The names of Tom Masson and R. K Munkittrick are familiar to all readers of current literature, and both have suffered for their names. The new proofreader too often insists on making the former into Mr. "Mason," and the great majority of those not personally acquainted with the latter assume that his signature is a nom de plume. It is painful to add that they often pronounce it Monkey-trick.



He is really and truly Mr. Munkittrick-Mun-kit-trick-very much Munkittrick indeed, for his father is a native of Ardee, Ireland. His mother is of American birth, and he was born March 5, 1858, in Manchester, England, but was brought to the United States in infancy. Of himself he says: "Descended from a race of clergymen and drunkards, I am a natural born lotus eater. Would rather loaf a week than work an hour. Have been hammering a living out of writing since 1876. Am married, and my family consists of one wife, one child and one dog. Live in New Jer-

If his confession be true that he does not like to work, it is fortunate for the reading world that he still has to, for he gives us a deal of gently delicious humor. He works hard, and yet has the art which conceals art, for his humor seems perfectly spontaneous. It seems to be of the sort that bubbles up of itself, like the flow from a perennial spring. This is written of his proce. Most of his poetry appears to be in thsentimental style. It is chiefly of the lyric order, while his proce is rather pointedly epic-necessarily so, as it is humerous. A fair specimen of his use of nature's phases in poetry is shown in "An Etching:"

The meadows flame with goldenrod; White cloudlets fill the skies;

The thistledown along the sod . In every zephyr flies. The orchard trees serenely blow With apples red and ripe, And in the wistful afterglow

The quail begins to pipe. Along the way the squirrel pranks, The sumachs brightly blaze, And on the fading flower banks

There is a veil of haze, And, singing blithe and happy airs Through woodlands rustling brown, September lightly walks and wears Her shining golden brown.

Tom Masson is still quite a young man, but has been a writer for six years. Be-· fore that he had a rare and valuable experience on the ocean, nor has his hand yet forgotten its cunning in seamanship, for he is an enthusiastic yachtsman and knows a sailing vessel in minutest detail from spanker to keelson. He was born in Essex, Conn., July 21, 1866, and his father being captain of a sailing vessel he passed most of his first twelve years on the ocean, visiting many foreign lands. He was then three years in school at New Haven and four years in business as a commercial traveler. Since 1886 he has been a writer, and the following pleasant skit entitled "His Light Put Out" is a fair specimen of his style

He had worn a colored blazer on the Nile; He had sported spats in Persia just for style; Wish a necktle quite too utter, in the streets of old Calcutta he had stirred up quite a flutter for awhile.



The maids of Java thronged before his door Attracted by the trousers that he wore. And his vest—a bosom ventor—shook Formosa to its center, and they hailed him as a mentor by the score.

On his own ground, as a "masher" on the He outdid a Turkish pashs who stood treat; He gave Shanghai girls the jumps, and their

cheeks stuck out like mumps at the pat-ent leather pumps on his feet. But he called upon a Boston girl one night With a necktle ready made—which wasn't

And she looked at him, this maid did, and he faded, and he faded, and he faded, and he faded out of sight.

A Pointer on Lightning. In a thunderstorm it is unsafe to take refuge under a white poplar, as that tree seems to attract lightning?

ITS FATE IS CERTAIN.

A Once Famous Town Sure to Be De-

Kaskaskia was once the capital of Illinois Territory and a famous western city. There Lafayette received royal entertainment during his visit to the United States he had helped to create. For a long time the inhabitants held the adjacent grazing and farming land in common under a grant made by Louis XIV of France, and each spring the village priest allotted meadow and fallow ground to the various householders. But now, according to a St. Louis correspondent, the ancient and almost forgotten town seems to be doomed.

In the spring of 1881 the Mississippi river changed its channel, cutting away its banks and breaking into the Kaskaskia, or what was known years ago as the Okaw river, making a perfect island of Kaskaskia township and the doomed town. Since that time the river has slowly but surely made deadly inroads to the once flourishing village, and in less than a year the Father of Waters will have swallowed up this ancient set-

At the head of the chute, where the Mississippi cut its way through to the Okaw river, stands an old fashioned brick house, the first one erected in the once metropolis of Illinois. It stands deserted, save by the rats that move unmolested from garret to cellar. It is seldom visited. The owner has long since died. Surrounded by a grove of maple and cedar trees it presents a lonesome appearance. It will be the next victim for the angry waters, and one more favoite landmark will have disappeared.

Little shanties that were erected years ago have toppled over and swept down stream with the mighty current that seemed destined to sweep every landmark out of existence that had adorned the village of Kaskaskia for the past century. Seventy-five years ago the town promised to be a city. Even before St. Louis had a population of 500 souls every indication pointed toward Kaskaskia as the growing city of the west, but the high water played sad havoc with the settlement, and St. Louis grew and prospered.

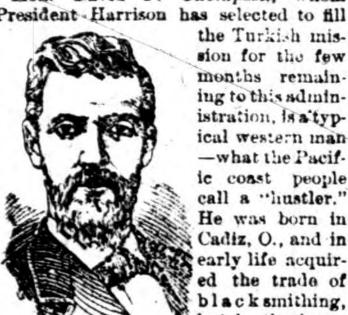
In 1880 the population was 1,213, and nine years later, in 1889, it had been reduced to 862. Since the Mississippi river has made such a determined effort to swallow up the village the island has been comparatively deserted, not more than 400 souls inhabiting this once prosperous settlement. The farmers (no other class of people now exist there) cross the river in skiffs and do their trading at Chester and return to beir island to live in solitude until once more they are compelled to visit Chester to lay in their winter or summer supply of provisions and clothing.

The land is the most fertile in Illinois, and passing steamers are hailed to move the crops that are harvested in great abundance.

HE'S GOING TO TURKEY.

Record of the New United States Minister to Constantinople.

Hen. David P. Thompson, whom President Harrison has selected to fill the Turkish mis-



months remaining to this administration, is a typical western man -what the Pacific coast people call a "hustler." He was born in Cadiz, O., and in early life acquired the trade of black smithing,

but in the intervals of hammer-D. P. THOMPSON. - ing iron he studied the higher mathematics and soon became so expert in surveying that he was employed on the engineer corps of the Steubenville and Indiana railroad.

In 1858 he went to Oregon and for surveyor, but invested in land with so much judgment that he soon became a capitalist and a banker. In speaking of himself he says that he is "a blacksmith by trade, a surveyor by profession and a banker by occupation," and this sums up the story of his life. He has served as governor of Idaho one term, mayor of Portland three terms, state senator four years, and in some minor positions. He has twice been offered the Republican nomination for governor, but declined on account of business engagements. His term as minister to Turkey will only be a brief episode in a lengthy foreign tour he contemplates.

How a Zulu Receives a Visitor. A Zulu chief, when a man enters his hut, remains silent for some moments and seems quite unconscious of his presence. At length he says, in a tone of great dignity, "Ge saku bona" (I see you), to which the caller replies in the same way. The longer he takes to "see you" the greater man the visitor is supposed to be, and until he is thus "seen" he must keep silence and appear as much as possible not to be there at all.

South American Sanitary Congress. The government of Uruguay has extended an invitation to the governments of Brazil and the Argentine Republic to send representatives to Montevides to attend a sanitary congress to be held at that capital. Each nation is to be represented by three persons, one of whom shall be called the diplomatic representative, while the other two, who must be physicians, shall be called technical delegates.

Queer Story About a Table. A wonderful rustic table is said to be owned by a Philadelphia lady. It is formed of the boughs of a tree, and the bark has not been removed from them. It has been in her possession just two months, and about a fortnight ago it began to throw out green sprouts and is now in full bloom.



Joseph S. Beach. Seven Physicians Tried and Failed.

Plain Statement from a Substantial Man. "NO WONDER IT SELLS SO! It Is Because

the Cured Are All Around You!" Mr Joseph S. Beach, one of the most re-spected citizens of High Fulls, N. Y., and who for years has been connected with the Lawrenceville Cement Works of Lawrenceville, N. Y., in a position of great trust, writes us under recent date of the permanent and lasting cure effected by the use of a simple remedy. DR. DAVID KENNEDY:

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Under date of April 11th, 1892, Mr. Beach writes "that for the last four years (which is since his recovery,) he has been employed at the Cement works testing cement, a position that none but the strongest and healthiest of men could fill besides driving ten miles a day to his home, and during that the his never lost a day. This grand oundition of health I attribute entirely to the use of Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy which saved me from a lingering life of tor-ture and pain as all afflicted with Kilney troubles must suffer in time unless cured." Yours respectfully,

JOSEPH S. BEACL.

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